

**Subject** Healthy children's meals and beverages at restaurants

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## Overview

This bill requires restaurants that offer and sell children's meals to offer at least one children's meal that satisfies the requirements in this bill for a healthy children's meal, phases in the requirements over a four-year period, and directs the commissioner of health to enforce this section.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>Remedies available.</b>
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Amends § 144.99, subd. 1. Allows the commissioner of health to use the authority and tools in the Health Enforcement Consolidation Act to enforce section 325F.179, the section on healthy children's meals and beverages at restaurants.

This section is effective August 1, 2025.

2	<b>Healthy children's meals and beverages.</b>
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Adds § 325F.179. Requires a restaurants that sells children's meals to offer at least one children's meal that meets the requirements in this section for a healthy children's meal, phases in implementation of these requirements, provides for enforcement, and requires the commissioner of health to provide training and education on this section.

**Subd. 1. Purpose.** Specifies the purpose of this section is to promote public health by ensuring restaurants make healthy meals and beverages available to children.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** Defines terms for this section: child-friendly restaurant, children's meal, commissioner, default beverage, default side, healthy children's meal, and restaurant. "Child-friendly restaurant" means a restaurant that offers a children's meal.

Section	Description
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**Subd. 3. Phased-in implementation of healthy children’s meals.** Requires a child-friendly restaurant to offer and sell children’s meals that satisfy the requirements in this section according to the following schedule:

- by August 1, 2022, a child-friendly restaurant must, for a children’s meal that includes a beverage, offer and sell a default beverage that is water with no added sweeteners or an unflavored, nondairy milk alternative;
- by August 1, 2024, a child-friendly restaurant must, for a children’s meal that includes a side, offer and sell a default side that meets the requirements for a default side; and
- by August 1, 2025, a child-friendly restaurant must offer and sell at least one children’s meal that meets the requirements for a healthy children’s meal (limitations on calories, sodium, calories from saturated fat and from fat, calories from total sugars, and trans fat; servings from at least two of the listed food groups and limitations on what those items may be; and, if a beverage is included, a beverage that meets the requirements for a default beverage).

**Subd. 4. Alternative beverage.** Allows a restaurant to sell, and allows a customer to purchase, an alternative beverage instead of the default beverage.

**Subd. 5. Enforcement.** Allows the commissioner to enforce this section using the tools and authority in the Health Enforcement Consolidation Act. Also allows the commissioner or a local unit of government to impose monetary penalties for violations of this section that increase in size based on the number of recurring violations.

**Subd. 6. Training and education.** Requires the commissioner to prepare, disseminate, and periodically update educational materials and information for restaurants on the requirements of this section, compliance steps, signage, and training for restaurant workers.

**Subd. 7. Evaluation.** Requires the commissioner to evaluate the extent to which this section results in improved health for children and adults.

Makes this section effective August 1, 2021, except that subdivision 5 (enforcement) is effective August 1, 2025.



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